

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/624,559

Examiner

Katherine W. Mitchell

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA, MASA HARU

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,6 and 7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 March 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/01/2005.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Katherine Mitchell

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Examiner notes for the record with gratitude Mr. Chen's professional presentation and prompt attention in handling this application.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nicolas Chen on 8/31-2005 - 9/8/2005.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

- Claim 1 has been amended to delete lines 3-9 completely and insert in their place:
---passage of a shank of the bolt in an axial direction, the attachment clip comprising:
a clip body having an abutting part for abutment against the first member, the clip body having a shank hole for passage of the shank of the bolt and an outer flange formed at an outer periphery of the clip body, wherein the abutting part is formed with an abutting line extending parallel to the outer circumferential edge of the outer flange and extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, and the clip body is apart from the outer flange for a predetermined distance extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, thereby providing the clip body and the outer flange with a step-shaped section; and---
- Claim 1 line 13 has been amended to delete "an axial" and insert in its place --the

Art Unit: 3677

axial-- .

- Claim 1 line 13 has been amended to delete "chip" and insert in its place --clip--.
- Claim 1 line 16 has been amended to delete "an axial" and insert in its place --the axial--.
- Claim 1 line 20 has been amended to delete "in a direction of the height of the attachment clip" and insert in its place -- extending away from the clip body in the axial direction--.
- Claim 7, line 2 has been amended to insert --- in an axial direction-- immediately after "passage of a shank of the bolt".
- Claim 7 line 6 has been amended to delete "on the first" and insert in its place --against the first--.
- Claim 7 line 8 has been amended to delete "along an outer" and insert in its place --at an outer--.
- Claim 7 has been amended to delete lines 8-11 from "wherein the abutting part...section and a plurality of" completely and insert in their place:
-- wherein the abutting part is formed with an abutting line extending parallel to the outer circumferential edge of the outer flange and extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, and the clip body is apart from the outer flange for a predetermined distance extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, thereby providing the clip body and the outer flange with a step-shaped section; and a plurality of---
- Claim 7 line 14 has been amended to delete "along an " and insert in its place -- along the-- .

Art Unit: 3677

- Claim 7 line 15 has been amended to delete "chip" and insert in its place --clip--.
- Claim 7 line 19 has been amended to delete "an axial" and insert in its place --the axial--.
- Claim 7 line 23 has been amended to delete "in a direction of the height of the attachment clip" and insert in its place -- extending away from the clip body in the axial direction--.

5. The following is an examiner's **statement of reasons for allowance**: Fisher USP 4911594 and/or Fisher in view of Frederick USP 3203302, as applied in the last office action, teach all the claim limitations except a clip body having an abutting part formed at an outer periphery of the clip body, said part having an abutting line extending parallel to the outer circumferential edge of the outer flange and extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, and the clip body is apart from the outer flange for a predetermined distance extending away from the clip body in the axial direction, thereby providing the clip body and the outer flange with a step-shaped section. With this additional structural limitation in the independent claims, all the claims read over the prior art of record. Examiner notes that the claws are described as "departing from the clip body along the axial direction of the attachment clip", and the clip body includes the outer flange, and thus the claws must necessarily extend in the axial direction opposite from the axial direction that the flange extends. Also note the only relevant definition of a step in terms of "step-shaped" requires the shape of a step of a stairway.

step (stěp) *noun*

Art Unit: 3677

step (stĕp) noun

a. A rest for the foot in ascending or descending. b. **steps** Stairs. c. Something, such as a ledge or an offset, that resembles a step of a stairway.¹

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine W. Mitchell whose telephone number is 571-272-7069. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Katherine W Mitchell
Examiner
Art Unit 3677



Kwm
9/1/2005

¹Excerpted from *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* Copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products N.V., further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.



OK Yenter
Kelley
9/1/05

Prior Art
FIG.1

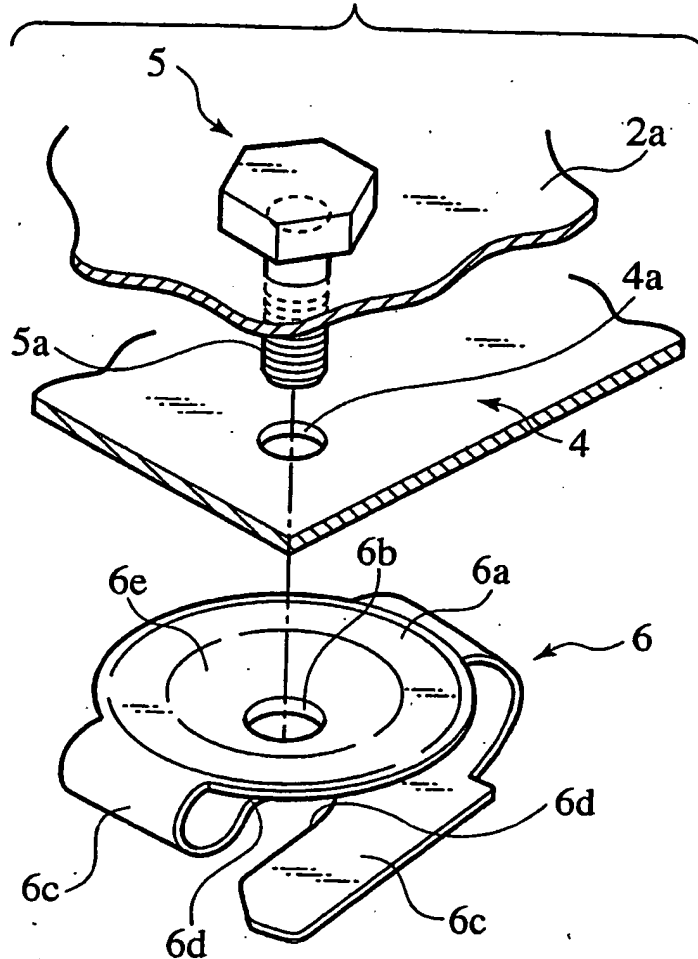
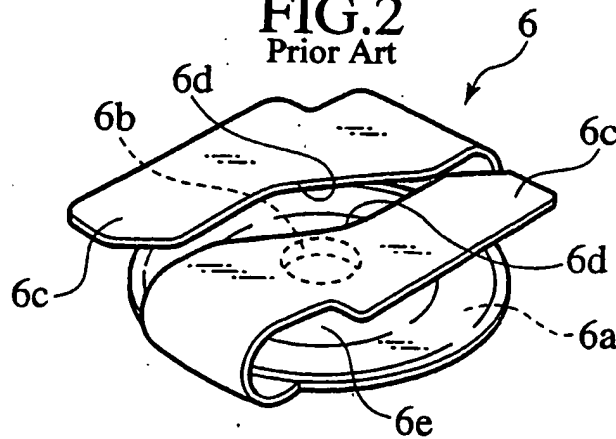


FIG.2
Prior Art





2/10

REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG.3
Prior Art

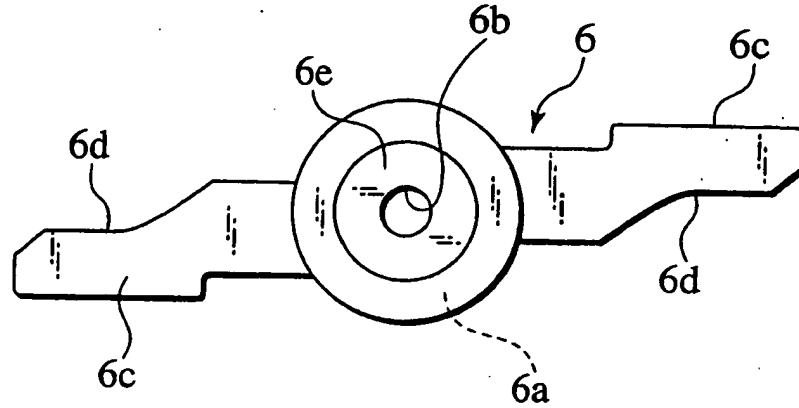


FIG.4
Prior Art

